

Docket No.: 243490US2S CONT/jkl

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Kyojiro NANBU

SERIAL NUMBER: 10/680,256

GROUP: 2624

FILED: October 8, 2003

EXAMINER: LE, BRIAN Q.

FOR: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

SIR:

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability of the claimed invention. In response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance in the Notice of Allowability of October 7, 2008, Applicants respectfully submit the following comments.

In the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance on page 2 of the Notice of Allowance mailed October 7, 2008, paragraph 1 states in part:

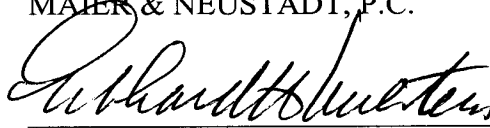
Regarding independent claims 14 and 34, the prior art of records [*sic*] do [*sic*] not show the limitations of an image processing apparatus comprising "an average means configured to average values of the first pixel and the second pixel when the numerical similarity is high in the numerical unit, and to not average the first pixel value and the second pixel value when the determined similarity is low" in combination with other limitations of the claims.

The above comment does not appear to be accurate with respect to independent Claims 15 and 34. For example, Claim 14 recites a "numerical means" and not a "numerical unit" and Claim 34 recites "an average unit" and not "an average means." Accordingly, it is

respectfully submitted that the above quoted statement does not apply to independent Claims  
14 and 34.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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(OSMMN 05/04)

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